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THREE CHARGED IN STOLEN MAIL AND CHECK FRAUD CASE

SACRAMENTO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a Federal Grand Jury in Sacramento returned an indictment charging MELVIN LEE GREGORY, 20, GARY LEE MOTHERAL, 19, and LANEA BERNICE MEDEIROS, 20, all of Sacramento, with conspiring to steal and possess stolen U.S. mail.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James P. Arguelles and was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Sacramento Police Department. The charges in the indictment are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The indictment charges that during the period of April of 2004, all three defendants were part of a conspiracy to break into and steal the mail from neighborhood delivery and collection boxes ("NDCBU's") located in Sacramento. Specifically, the indictment charges that during the evening of April 22-23, 2004, the defendants drove around the Sacramento area, looking for NDCBU's to break into. The indictment also charges that after defendant GREGORY broke into and stole the mail from NDCBU's located on Fransei Way, Alli Way, Erdman Way, Lamberton Circle, Dymic Way, North Hill Way, and Wind Creek Drive in North Sacramento, all three defendants possessed and rifled through the mail.

If convicted, defendants GREGORY, MOTHERAL, and MEDEIROS face a maximum sentence of five years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine for each count charged.

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